

Calendar No. 246

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 1739**

To promote freedom of the press around the world.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 1, 2009

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. LEAHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

DECEMBER 18, 2009

Reported by Mr. KERRY, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]**A BILL**

To promote freedom of the press around the world.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Daniel Pearl Freedom
5 of the Press Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.**

7 (a) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE-
8 LATING TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WORLDWIDE IN AN-

1 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRAC-
 2 TICES.—The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amend-
 3 ed—

4 (1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d))—

5 (A) in paragraph (10), by striking “and”
 6 at the end;

7 (B) in paragraph (11), by striking the pe-
 8 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

9 (C) by adding at the end the following new
 10 paragraph:

11 “(12) wherever applicable—

12 “(A) a description of the status of freedom
 13 of the press, including initiatives in favor of
 14 freedom of the press and efforts to improve or
 15 preserve, as appropriate, the independence of
 16 the media, together with an assessment of
 17 progress made as a result of those efforts;

18 “(B) an identification of countries in which
 19 there were violations of freedom of the press,
 20 including direct physical attacks, imprisonment,
 21 indirect sources of pressure, and censorship by
 22 governments, military, intelligence, or police
 23 forces, criminal groups, or armed extremist or
 24 rebel groups; and

1 “(C) in countries where there are particu-
2 larly severe violations of freedom of the press—

3 “(i) whether government authorities
4 of each such country participate in, facili-
5 tate, or condone such violations of the free-
6 dom of the press; and

7 “(ii) what steps the government of
8 each such country has taken to preserve
9 the safety and independence of the media;
10 and to ensure the prosecution of those in-
11 dividuals who attack or murder journal-
12 ists.”; and

13 (2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304), by add-
14 ing at the end the following new subsection:

15 “(i) The report required by subsection (b) shall in-
16 clude, wherever applicable—

17 “(1) a description of the status of freedom of
18 the press, including initiatives in favor of freedom of
19 the press and efforts to improve or preserve, as ap-
20 propriate, the independence of the media, together
21 with an assessment of progress made as a result of
22 those efforts;

23 “(2) an identification of countries in which
24 there were violations of freedom of the press, includ-
25 ing direct physical attacks, imprisonment, indirect

1 sources of pressure, and censorship by governments,
 2 military, intelligence, or police forces, criminal
 3 groups, or armed extremist or rebel groups; and

4 “(3) in countries where there are particularly
 5 severe violations of freedom of the press—

6 “(A) whether government authorities of
 7 each such country participate in, facilitate, or
 8 condone such violations of the freedom of the
 9 press; and

10 “(B) what steps the government of each
 11 such country has taken to preserve the safety
 12 and independence of the media, and to ensure
 13 the prosecution of those individuals who attack
 14 or murder journalists.”.

15 (b) FREEDOM OF THE PRESS GRANT PROGRAM.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall
 17 administer a grant program with the aim of pro-
 18 moting freedom of the press worldwide. The grant
 19 program shall be administered by the Department of
 20 State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and
 21 Labor in consultation with the Undersecretary for
 22 Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy.

23 (2) AMOUNTS AND TIME.—Grants may be
 24 awarded to nonprofit and international organizations
 25 and may span multiple years, up to 5 years.

1 (3) PURPOSE.—Grant proposals should promote
 2 and broaden press freedoms by strengthening the
 3 independence of journalists and media organizations;
 4 promoting a legal framework for freedom of the
 5 press, or through providing regionally and culturally
 6 relevant training and professionalization of skills to
 7 meet international standards in both traditional and
 8 digital media.

9 (c) MEDIA ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this sec-
 10 tion, the term “media organization” means a group or or-
 11 ganization that gathers and disseminates news and infor-
 12 mation to the public (through any medium of mass com-
 13 munication) in a foreign country in which the group or
 14 organization is located, except that the term does not in-
 15 clude a group or organization that is primarily an agency
 16 or instrumentality of the government of such foreign coun-
 17 try. The term includes an individual who is an agent or
 18 employee of such group or organization who acts within
 19 the scope of such agency or employment.

20 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 21 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
 22 necessary to carry out this section.

23 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

24 *This Act may be cited as the “Daniel Pearl Freedom*
 25 *of the Press Act of 2009”.*

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELAT-**
 2 **ING TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WORLDWIDE**
 3 **IN ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN**
 4 **RIGHTS PRACTICES.**

5 *The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—*

6 *(1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d))—*

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 8 *at the end;*

9 *(B) in paragraph (11), by striking the pe-*
 10 *riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and*

11 *(C) by adding at the end the following new*
 12 *paragraph:*

13 *“(12) wherever applicable—*

14 *“(A) a description of the status of freedom*
 15 *of the press, including initiatives in favor of*
 16 *freedom of the press and efforts to improve or*
 17 *preserve, as appropriate, the independence of the*
 18 *media, together with an assessment of progress*
 19 *made as a result of those efforts;*

20 *“(B) an identification of countries in which*
 21 *there were violations of freedom of the press, in-*
 22 *cluding direct physical attacks, imprisonment,*
 23 *indirect sources of pressure, and censorship by*
 24 *governments, military, intelligence, or police*
 25 *forces, criminal groups, or armed extremist or*
 26 *rebel groups; and*

1 “(C) in countries where there are particu-
2 larly severe violations of freedom of the press—

3 “(i) whether government authorities of
4 each such country participate in, facilitate,
5 or condone such violations of the freedom of
6 the press; and

7 “(ii) what steps the government of each
8 such country has taken to preserve the safe-
9 ty and independence of the media, and to
10 ensure the prosecution of those individuals
11 who attack or murder journalists.”; and

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13 at the end the following new subsection:

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15 clude, wherever applicable—

16 “(1) a description of the status of freedom of the
17 press, including initiatives in favor of freedom of the
18 press and efforts to improve or preserve, as appro-
19 priate, the independence of the media, together with
20 an assessment of progress made as a result of those
21 efforts;

22 “(2) an identification of countries in which there
23 were violations of freedom of the press, including di-
24 rect physical attacks, imprisonment, indirect sources
25 of pressure, and censorship by governments, military,

1 *intelligence, or police forces, criminal groups, or*
2 *armed extremist or rebel groups; and*

3 *“(3) in countries where there are particularly se-*
4 *vere violations of freedom of the press—*

5 *“(A) whether government authorities of each*
6 *such country participate in, facilitate, or con-*
7 *done such violations of the freedom of the press;*
8 *and*

9 *“(B) what steps the government of each such*
10 *country has taken to preserve the safety and*
11 *independence of the media, and to ensure the*
12 *prosecution of those individuals who attack or*
13 *murder journalists.”.*

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